

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough review of the present application and the allowance of Claims 1-12, 19, 22 and 31-33. Based upon the amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the pending claims.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 34-36. Claim 29 was objected to by the Examiner in the final Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 34 is an independent claim that incorporates all of the limitations of Claim 29 and the base claim, Claim 27. Claims 35 and 36 reflect the subject matter of dependent claims 28 and 30.

Amended Claims

Applicant has amended Claim 27 to include the further limiting features of Claim 28. Claim 28 was objected to by the Examiner in the final Office Action as being dependent upon a base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 28 has been cancelled.

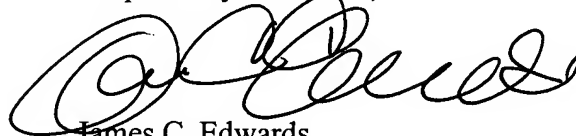
Applicant has amended Claim 21 so that it depends from current independent Claim 19. Claim 21 was objected to by the Examiner in the final Office Action as being dependent upon a base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the proposed amended claims and the remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present invention.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



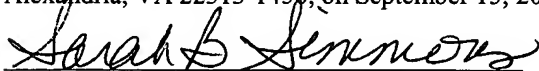
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 15, 2003.



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